

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP

GUIDELINES FOR RELATIONSHIPS

“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.” -1 Timothy 5:1-2

“But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. -Ephesians 5: 3-4, 15-17, 21

On foreign missions projects, we are all out of our normal comfort zones. All of our feelings and experiences are often very intense and sometimes uncomfortable. Because we are a small group of believers in a foreign environment and subject to increased spiritual warfare, an unusual and unintentional bonding can take place between people and there needs to be an awareness that this can take place.

PLEASE be aware of the tremendous spiritual warfare and psychological and physical pressures that you may be experiencing during our time together. Everything is exaggerated when we are “in the field.” Emotions such as fears, stress, anxiety and other feelings can get out of proportion. The entire trip can be an extremely emotional experience even if you are not normally an emotional person. In an effort to address one of the areas in which this exaggerated effect can impact the lives of the participants, FBC Sudbury has adopted the following guidelines for relationships:

1. **BE AWARE** that the same behavior in different cultures may be either widely accepted or highly inappropriate. When in doubt about a particular behavior, please ask the team leader or coordinator.
2. **PLEASE OBSERVE** modest standards of dress while on trips and in your hotel in the presence of members of the opposite sex.
2. **REFRAIN** from any activity during the trip that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a national, staff member or trip participant that is not your spouse.
4. **DO NOT** be alone in a private setting with a member of the opposite sex who is not your spouse.
5. **DO NOT** go to the home of an interpreter or national believer of the opposite sex without another American team member accompanying you and without permission from your team leader.
6. **IF YOU** are experiencing a physical or emotional situation for which you need counsel, please go to a team leader of the same sex (when possible) to discuss the situation.

We are going abroad for the sake of the gospel. Our goal is to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. Please keep this in mind when relating to everyone on the project including team members, nationals, and missionaries. If we honor God in this process He will continue to honor our efforts! Thank you!